

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 14 have each been rejected as being unpatentable based on the disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 6,107,920, hereinafter Eberhardt, and U.S. Patent No. 6,181,287, hereinafter Beigel.

As a first point, Applicants respectfully submit that an RFID module, as defined in the specification, includes a chip mounted on or fixed to a substrate. Accordingly, the present amendments to Claims 1, 7 and 14 to recite that the module is a chip mounted on or fixed to a substrate, simply add explicit recitations of subject matter which was already implicitly claimed. With the present claim amendments, independent Claim 1 recites a method including providing an RF antenna on an item, and providing a RFID electronics module, the module electrically coupling the RFID electronics module to the RF antenna on the item after the RF antenna is provided on the item, the module being a chip mounted on a substrate and the coupling being a non-contact electrical coupling, thereby providing an RFID capability for the item.

Claim 7, the second independent claim, now recites a method including applying an RF antenna directly to an item, providing an RFID electronics module separate from the item and the RF antenna on the item, the RFID electronics module including electronics that provide an RFID capability when coupled to the RF antenna, and applying the RFID electronics module to the item after applying the RF antenna to the item, whereby the RFID electronics module is a chip mounted on a substrate that is electrically coupled to the RF antenna by a non-contact coupling. Claim 14, the third independent claim, now recites, in combination, an item having at

least one surface and an RF antenna applied to the surface, and an RFID electronics module separate from the item and from the RF antenna on the item, the RFID electronics module being a chip fixed to a substrate and including electronics which provide an RFID capability when coupled to the RF antenna, the RFID electronics module being applied to the item so as to be electrically coupled to the RF antenna and provide an RFID capability for the item, the RF antenna being coupled to the RFID electronics module by a non-contact coupling.

Eberhardt describes an article to which an antenna 22 is applied. The antenna 22 includes antenna elements 24 and 26 provided with coupling regions 28 and 30. Applied to the regions 28 and 30 is a chip assembly 12 having a conductive pattern 37 that engages the regions 28 and 30. Contact is a physical contact as best seen in Figure 4. Conductive pads 48 and 50 engage the coupling regions 42 and 44. However, there is clearly no suggestion of a non-contact coupling as recited in the claims.

Beigel discloses an assembly in which, as best seen in Figures 2 and 3 of Beigel, a chip 18 is applied to a substrate 12 which in turn is provided with a capacitive/inductive circuit 19 for the purpose of connecting the chip 18 to the antenna elements 14. See also column 3, lines 33 to 39. Clearly the non-contact coupling is not provided by the chip. Instead, it is provided by the circuit 19 that is fixed to the substrate 12 of the antenna 14.

Clearly, if anything, combining Eberhardt and Beigel would result in, at most, a capacitive/inductive circuit being applied to a substrate, to which a chip is then applied. Accordingly, the combination of Eberhardt and Beigel would not result in a method including providing a RFID electronics module, which has both a chip and a

substrate, on an item to electrically coupling the RFID electronics module to an RF antenna on the item, as recited in Claim 1. Nor would it result in a method including applying an RFID electronics module, which is a chip mounted to a substrate, to an item after applying an RF antenna to the item, so that the RFID electronics module is electrically coupled to the RF antenna by a non-contact coupling, as recited in Claim 7. It would also not result in an item including an RFID electronics module, which is a chip mounted to a substrate, being applied to an item so as to be electrically coupled to an RF antenna on the item and provide an RFID capability for the item, the RF antenna being coupled to the RFID electronics module by a non-contact coupling, as recited in Claim 14.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 7 and 14 are patentably distinguishable from the applied prior art. Withdrawal of the rejections of independent Claims 1, 7 and 14 is therefore respectfully requested.

The dependent claims define additional distinguishing aspects associated with the present application. These claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims and so a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in these dependent claims is not presented at this time. Applicant reserves the right to present such arguments later during prosecution or on appeal.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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